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Message Text

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TOSEC 254

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: RADIO/TV TRAVELING PRESS REPORT, OCTOBER 26, 1974

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 12

1. NBC-TV NIGHTLY NEWS, VALERIANI: WHEN SOVIET AND US OFFICIALS GATHERED AT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR A LUNCH GIVEN BY KISSINGER FOR FORMIN GROMYKO, THE FORD-BREZHNEV MEETING HAD NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED OFFICIALLY SO NOBODY WOULD TALK ABOUT IT. THIS WAS PRIMARILY A SOCIAL FUNCTION, BUT KISSINGER DID CHAT BRIEFLY WITH NEWSMEN SAYING HIS TALK HERE HAS GONE ABOUT AS WELL AS EXPECTED AND THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT ON LIMITING OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. LATER IN HIS LUNCHEON TOAST HE SAID THE TWO SIDES HAD MADE GOOD PROGRESS IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS, BUT GROMYKO POINTED OUT PUBLICLY THERE WAS STILL CERTAIN DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON THE MEANS AND METHODS TO ACHIEVE CERTAIN GOALS. HE SEEMED TO BE REFERRING TO THE ARMS TALK. AFTER LUNCH KISSINGER WENT BACK TO THE
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KREMLIN TO MEET WITH BREZHNEV FOR SEVERAL HOURS, BUT AGAIN

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WITHOUT EXPLANATION NO FILMING WAS PERMITTED. THE ONLY KNOWN RESULT OF THE KISSINGER MISSION IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND BREZHNEV WILL MEET BRIEFLY NEXT MONTH. BUT THE TWO SIDES HAVE REPORTEDLY MADE ENOUGH PROGRESS IN THE NUCLEAR ARMS TALKS THAT MR. FORD AND MR. BREZHNEV WILL HAVE SOMETHING POSITIVE TO ANNOUNCE WHEN THEY GET TOGETHER. ITS ALSO CLEAR FROM OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE REASSURED ONE ANOTHER THAT THEY BOTH REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE POLICY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS.

2. CBS-TV EVENING NEWS, KALB: WHEN KISSINGER CONCEALS HIS PESSIMISM BEHIND A BROAD SMILE AND WHEN CHATTING WITH REPORTERS HE GENERALLY DESCRIBES IT AS OPTIMISM -- THAT'S HIS STYLE. BUT HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE TALKS WITH BREZHNEV HAD BEEN TOUGH, BUT HE DID THINK THAT AN ARMS CONTROL SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT. I ASKED KISSINGER WHETHER HE THOUGHT HE COULD COME UP WITH PRECISE GUIDE-LINES FOR THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATION ON STRATEGIC ARMS. THAT WAS HIS HOPE.

KISSINGER: "WE JUST PRESENTED OUR IDEAS AND IT'S A COM-PLICATED SUBJECT. WE WILL HAVE TO SEE THIS AFTERNOON."

KALB: "ONE MORE SESSION?"

KISSINGER: "I NEVER SAID THAT THEY WOULD GET ANY FIXED AGREEMENT ON THIS TRIP."

KALB: "IS IT GOING THE WAY YOU HAD EXPECTED?"

KISSINGER: "SUBSTANTIALLY, YES."

GROMYKO WAS EXPANSIVE -- CHIT-CHATTING WITH KISSINGER. GROMYKO AND KISSINGER THEN ENGAGED IN SOME CONSPICUOUS NEGOTIATING -- ALL OUT OF EAR SHOT. THIS WEEK BOTH SIDES LEARNED HOW MUCH THEY DISAGREE ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, HOW MUCH THEY HOPE TO AGREE ABOUT STRATEGIC ARMS. THE UP-SHOT WAS A COMMON DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE TREND TOWARD DETENTE WHILE RECOGNIZING SOME OF THE AWESOME PITFALLS ALONG THE WAY. IT'S NOW CLEAR KISSINGER FAILED TO GET PRECISE GUIDELINES FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF ARMS CONTROL
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TALKS, BUT HE DID SUCCEED IN ESTABLISHING WITH BREZHNEV A GENERAL APPROACH FOR THOSE TALKS, AND HE IS NOW AIMING FOR A NEW EAST-WEST ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT BY NEXT JUNE WHEN BREZHNEV IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE US.

3. CBS RADIO "FIRST-LINE REPORT," KALB: MOSCOW AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR IS AN URBAN GIANT LIVING UNDER A CHARCOAL GRAY CLOUD. A FLICKER OF SNOW OFFERS A HINT OF WINTER, A

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GUST OF WIND RUSHES ACROSS THE BROAD SQUARES, SENDING DUST AND DIRT INTO A SMALL TYPHOON. CROWDS OF RUSSIANS CROSSED THE SQUARES AND BOULEVARDS AS THOUGH THEY WERE CROSSING AN OPEN FIELD, AIMLESSLY. SHOPS ARE JAMMED, YOUNG

RUSSIANS STROLL BACK AND FORTH IN FRONT OF HOTELS WHERE FOREIGNERS STAY. THEY CATCH GLIMPSES OF THE LATEST STYLES, THEY GIGGLE AND POINT, OFTEN WITH HUMOR, SOMETIMES WITH ENVY. OLDER WOMEN WALK ARM IN ARM, SHARING A PRIVATE JOKE AND BURSTING THEN INTO INNOCENT LAUGHTER. MEN STRIDE DOWN THE MAIN STREET, MOST OF THEM STARING AT NOTHING. A FEW GLANCE AT THE GIRLS MICHEVIOUSLY.

MOSCOW IS MOSCOW AFTER ALL, AND REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE IS NOT TO BE EXPECTED HERE. THE EVOLUTIONARY CHANGE IS APPARENT BUT NONE OF IT REALLY ADDS UP TO A RADICAL SWITCH. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST CONSERVATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE WHOLE WORLD. ITS TAX STRUCTURE IS DESIGNED TO MAKE SURE THAT MONEY BEGETS MORE MONEY. IT'S HARD TO PAY MORE THAN 15 PERCENT OF ONE'S INCOME TO THE GOVERNMENT NO MATTER HOW LARGE ONE'S INCOME MIGHT BE. THE TAX YOU SEE IS REGRESSIVE. THE RICH GET POORER, AND ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT NECESSARILY TRUE THAT THE POOR GET POORER IT'S A GOOD CHANCE THEY WILL. THE AVERAGE INCOME IN THIS COUNTRY IS STILL ABOUT 120 RUBLES A MONTH, ROUGHLY DOLLAR 150.00 AT THE LEGAL RATE OF EXCHANGE. THE STANDARD OF LIVING IS SLOWLY RISING BUT EVEN BY SOVIET ADMISSION IT STILL LAGS CONSIDERABLY BEHIND THE WEST.

THIS IS NEVERTHELESS A POWERFUL MILITARY STATE. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CAPABLE OF FUNNELING THEIR RESOURCES INTO A LIMITED PROJECT AND PRODUCING THE DESIRED
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AIM, WHETHER IT BE A NUCLEAR BOMBER OR MIRVING A MISSILE. NO BRANCH OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY CAN REMAIN A MONOPOLY OF ONE SUPERPOWER OR THE OTHER FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME; CATCH-UP IS INEVITABLE. AT THIS TIME THE US LEADS RUSSIA IN MIRV TECHNOLOGY; THE US CAN FIRE SEVERAL WARHEADS FROM THE NOSECONE OF A SINGLE MISSILE AND TARGET EACH ONE OF THEM ACCURATELY. THE RUSSIANS CAN ALSO FIRE A CLUSTER OF WARHEADS BUT THEY HAVE NOT YET MASTERED THE TECHNOLOGY OF TARGETING EACH ONE OF THEM. THEY WILL AND IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO.

SECRETARY KISSINGER, WHO ARRIVED HERE LAST WEDNESDAY, IS TRYING TO WORK OUT A DEAL THAT ALLOWS THE RUSSIANS TO DEVELOP THEIR MIRV CAPABILITY BUT INHIBITS THEM FROM BUILDING MORE AND MORE LONG-RANGE MISSILES -- TRYING, IN

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OTHER WORDS, TO FASHION AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE BETWEEN MIRV AND MISSILE THAT BOTH SIDES CAN ACCEPT. KISSINGER HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING HERE WITH BREZHNEV AND THEIR TALKS HAVE BEEN BLUNT. KISSINGER, UNDERSTATING THE OBVIOUS, CALLS THEM VERY FRANK. HE HAS EVEN HAD TO INTERRUPT THE TALKS AT ONE POINT TO WARN BREZHNEV NOT TO EXPECT UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES, AN ALLUSION

PERHAPS TO A SOVIET DESIRE TO RETAIN ITS LEAD IN MISSILES WHILE CATCHING UP TO THE US IN MIRV. THIS NEGOTIATION WILL OBVIOUSLY TAKE A LONG TIME. IF SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED, IT COULD SPAN THE NEXT TEN YEARS, EMBRACING THEREBY NOT ONLY THE CURRENT GENERATION OF KILLER WEAPONS BUT ALSO THE NEXT GENERATION. KISSINGER AND RUSSIA, AN ODD COUPLE LOCKED IN A MARRIAGE OF SURVIVAL.

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